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ABSTRACT

This document provides an overview of the status of Latino youth and their families and makes recommendations for improving their educational achievement. The following key facts are reported: (1) Latino youth comprise the fastest growing group of young people in the United States; (2) young Latinos are at economic and educational risk because their parents are younger, less educated, employed at lower paying jobs, and poorer than the parents of White adolescents; (3) 32.5 percent live in poverty; (4) the proportion living in single-parent female-headed homes has increased from one in four to one in three over the past decade; (5) young Latinas are more likely than Whites and less likely than Blacks to have had children; (6) only 27 percent of the Latina mothers who bore children while teenagers had graduated from high school by their mid-twenties, compared to more than half of Whites and two-thirds of Blacks; (7) only 4 of 10 Latino teens live in families headed by high school graduates; (8) Latinos comprise 18 percent of all dropouts and 7 percent of all high school graduates; (9) half of all Latino dropouts did not complete grade 9; (10) young Latino and White men are represented similarly in the labor force, but 55 percent of young Latinas are participating in the labor force compared with 67 percent of young White females; and (11) the differences among the subgroups of the Latino population are even greater than overall differences between Latinos and non-Latinos. Recommendations for improvement are suggested. Statistical data are included on six tables and 22 graphs. A list of 20 information resources, a list of 24 references, and a form for ordering publications about adolescent pregnancy prevention are appended. (FMW)

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